GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
BIO-FARMING
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are taking measures to promote bio-farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to give subsidy on bio-fertilizers;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be given;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government to promote the export of bio-food items?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): Government is promoting the use of organic/biological materials as a supplementary source of plant nutrients. The State Governments are periodically advised to promote the use of compost/green manure, vermi-compost and bio-fertilisers.

The Union Agriculture Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme during 9th Plan entitled National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertilisers. The scheme provides for giving a non-recurring grant upto Rs. 20 lakh through State Governments for setting up of bio-fertiliser production units of 150 tonnes per year. The targeted capacity of 4500 tonnes of bio-fertiliser production units during 9th Plan has been approved under the scheme in different States. The scheme is being revised for continuation during 10th Plan, it envisages channelising the grants through NABARD.

(f): Measures to boost exports of bio-food include promotion and use of organic source of plant nutrients, biological and mechanical pests control measures etc.. The Government of India has also launched a National Programme on Organic Production to assist promotion of exports of organic products by putting in place an organic certification system in the country.